

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 BIB-01 /063 W  
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R 301200Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4633

INFO RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2625

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BU

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT BULGARIAN STUDENT ACTIVITIES

REF: A) MUNICH 2506 (NOTAL); B) SOFIA 979 (NOTAL);  
C) SOFIA 817 (NOTAL)

1. REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING AMONG BULGARIANS OF TWO DEMON-  
STRATIONS BY STUDENTS IN PAST WEEK OF THEIR OPPOSITION  
TO ZHIVKOV GOVERNMENT.

2. FIRST REPORT IS THAT A FEW DAYS AGO, AT THE STUDENT  
HOUSE OF CULTURE (ON THE SAME NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SQUARE AS  
THE SOFIA HOTEL - REF B), A BANNER WAS HUNG WHICH READ  
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"DOWN WITH ZHIVKOV". BANNER WAS QUICKLY REMOVED AND  
SEVERAL STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED IN THE ENSUING INVESTIGATION.

3. SECOND REPORT REFERS TO SERIES OF COMMENCEMENT DANCES  
THAT HAVE BEEN HELD FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS RUNNING AT UNIVER-  
SIADA HALL (WHERE ZHIVKOV AND OTHER BCP OFFICIALS NORMALLY  
HOLD IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND GIVE MAJOR SPEECHES). DURING

ONE EVENING'S BALL, AS CUSTOMARY POLITICALLY HORTATORY FILMS WERE BEING SHOWN, WHILE LIGHTS WERE OUT SOME UNKNOWN PERSONS HUNG LARGE BANNER WITH SLOGAN CRITICAL OF ZHIVKOV GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES STATING, "WE WANT FOOD, NOT MEDALS." WHEN BALL AUTHORITIES SAW BANNER, HALL WAS EVACUATED FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR AND BANNER WAS REMOVED.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED THESE REPORTS FROM BULGARIAN SOURCES, NONE OF WHICH WAS FIRST-HAND. THUS, FIRST REPORT (PARA 2) COULD BE VARIANT OF SOFIA HOTEL BANNER REPORT (REF B). AT SAME TIME, EMBASSY SEES THESE REPORTS AS MANIFESTATION OF CRITICISM OF ZHIVKOV GOVERNMENT BY STUDENTS, A GROUP RARELY HEARD FROM. IN PAST, BULGARIAN STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY INACTIVE POLITICALLY--EVEN IN JUNE--AND OBSERVES KNOW OF NO PRECEDENT FOR EITHER OF THESE REPORTED DEMONSTRATIONS. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT REPORTED BANNER IN UNIVERSIADA HALL HAD SAME THEME AS SLOGAN REPORTEDLY PAINTED ON WALL BY STRIKERS IN PLEVEN--"GIVE US SUBSTANTIVE REWARDS FOR OUR WORK, NOT EXHORTATION" (REF C). FINALLY, REGARDLESS OF ACTUAL DETAILS OF WHAT OCCURRED AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SQUARE OR UNIVERSIADA HALL, IT IS MOST INTERESTING THAT SUCH STORIES OF PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO ZHIVKOV GOVERNMENT ARE BEING PASSED AMONG BULGARIANS, AND THAT MANY BELIEVE THEM TO BE TRUE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, POLICIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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